

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 14-652V
Filed: May 14, 2015

UNPUBLISHED

ASHLEY M. PIETRO,

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Special Master Hamilton-Fieldman

Petitioner,

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v.

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Petitioner's Motion for Dismissal
Decision; Rheumatoid Arthritis;
Human Papillomavirus ("HPV")
Vaccine; Gardasil Vaccine.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

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Respondent.

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Carol L. Gallagher, Carol L. Gallagher, Esquire, LLC., Linwood, NJ, for Petitioner.

Debra A. Begley, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION¹

On July 24, 2014, Ashley M. Pietro ("Petitioner") filed a petition for compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 *et seq.* (2006) ("Vaccine Act"). Petitioner alleged that she suffered from Rheumatoid Arthritis ("RA") as a result of a Human Papillomavirus ("HPV") vaccination, more specially a Gardasil vaccination, she received on August 16, 2011. Petition ("Pet") at 1. The undersigned now finds that the information in the record does not show entitlement to an award under the Program.

On May 12, 2015, Petitioner filed a Motion for Decision Dismissing her Petition. Motion, ECF No. 34. According to the motion, "[a]n investigation of the facts and science supporting her case has demonstrated to [P]etitioner that she will be unable to prove that she is entitled to compensation in the Vaccine Program." Motion at 1. Petitioner further states that she understands that dismissal decision will result in a judgment against her, and that such a

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 and note (2006)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), a party has 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information, that satisfies the criteria in § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B). Further, consistent with the rule requirement, a motion for redaction must include a proposed redacted decision. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within the requirements of that provision, such material will be deleted from public access.

judgment will end all of her rights in the Vaccine Program. Id.

To receive compensation under the Vaccine Act, Petitioner must prove either 1) that she suffered a “Table Injury” – i.e., an injury falling within the Vaccine Injury Table – corresponding to one of her vaccinations, or 2) that she suffered an injury that was actually caused by a vaccine. See §§ 300aa-13(a)(1)(A) and 300aa-11(c)(1). An examination of the record did not uncover any evidence that Petitioner suffered a “Table Injury.” Further, the record does not contain a medical expert’s opinion or any other persuasive evidence indicating that her injuries were caused by a vaccination.

Under the Vaccine Act, a petitioner may not be awarded compensation based solely on the petitioner’s claims alone. Rather, the petition must be supported by either medical records or by the opinion of a competent physician. § 300aa-13(a)(1). In this case, because the medical records are insufficient to establish entitlement to compensation, a medical opinion must be offered in support. Petitioner, however, has offered no such opinion.

Therefore, the only alternative remains to DENY this petition. **Thus, this case is dismissed for insufficient proof. In the absence of a motion for review, the Clerk shall enter judgment accordingly.**

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/Lisa D. Hamilton-Fieldman
Lisa D. Hamilton-Fieldman
Special Master